Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies in the universities and academic institutions.

Creation of core groups of professional with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

Creation of new Scientific Departments/Organisations.

Regulatory Authority for Biotechnology

2159. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether Government has any proposal of constitution of a regulatory authority for biotechnology to govern developments in the segment;

if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. Government is considering to set up a National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority.

(b) and (c) The Authority would be set up as an independent, autonomous and professionally led body to provide a single window mechanism for biosafety clearance of genetically modified products and processes. Existing mechanisms, however, would continue till a full-fledged body is created with the required infrastructure and fully functional autonomy. Details of organization, scope, hierarchical flow of information, transparency of working, autonomy, training and retraining of regulatory professionals, nature of legislation required are currently being worked out.

Technological Advnaces for Restoring Damaged Human-Organs

2160. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

the details of new research and technological advances made so far with regards to restoring damaged human organs or replacing them with cloned ones specially with regards to kidney transplantation; and

the details of research institutes engaged in this filed of research in India?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No research project has been supported to replace damaged human organs with cloned ones especially with regard to kidney transplantation. However, the Department of Biotechnology has implemented a number of projects in the area of tissue engineering for regeneration of cells in cornea, skin, blood vessels, cardiac muscles at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram; Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi; Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Christian Medical College, Vellore.